

*And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant to tribute.*

*Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words.*

We find it very usual in the Old Testament by the figure of a beast to point out the Image of a people.

The text under consideration, is perhaps as apt and lively a representation of Issachar's character, as any in the whole Bible, or any people whatsoever; and may serve to discover the people of Issachar's character down to this day.— [79] They were a tribe of Israel,—— and an inactive people towards the good of posterity and mankind in General; they loved rest and present ease more than liberty, ——and choosed to be Slaves rather than exert themselves to maintain their liberties.——He saw the land was good, and rest was pleasant to him; he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant to tribute to pay heavy taxes.——We have many such Issachars in this day.——Our text is a prophesy in the present tense,—— a thing usual in the Hebrew writings,——it is Jacob foretelling the character of Issachar, and the contrary character of Naphtali.

Jacob is the first that is mentioned in scripture who preached to asses; but many have been thus employed since his time.——This is a most shameful monosyllable, when applyed to reasonable creatures;——men endowed with reason and understanding to degenerate so basely; what a falling off is here!

He was a numerous tribe, far too many to be so mean spirited.——A nation of slaves is a kingdom of asses;——it is dishonourable rest and disgraceful pleasure that is established upon the ruin of the common weal.

What does these burdens mean, which Issachar couched down so decently under? Civil and religious slavery no doubt. Strange, that such a number of Rational creatures should bear two such insupportable burdens!——Ah, I had forgot that they were asses; ——for, to be sure, no people of any rational spirit could endure such grievous bondage.

But who need wonder at Issachar's mean spirited condition, when many of those who have the light, and sit under the teaching of protestant and reformed ministers, have tamely couched down under these two burdens of civil and religious oppression.——Indeed this